

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS PFOR

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM, COUNTRY REVIEW PROCESS

REF: STATE 022265

1. CEP-CIES (AND ITS PREDECESSOR CIAP) REVIEWS HAVE BEEN MOST USEFUL WHEN THE FORM AND QUANTITY OF SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT OR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE WAS TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT CONDITIONED BY SUCH REVIEWS. THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE IN ECUADOR WHERE PETROLEUM INCOME HAS ALLEVIATED BOTH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

2. MOREOVER, EXPERIENCE THIS PAST YEAR IN ECUADOR DEMONSTRATED A LACK OF COORDINATION BY OAS WITH OTHER AGENCIES. THE PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO CEP-CIES WAS A REPORT ENTITLED QUOTE A SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM PROGRAM OF ACTION TO ATTACK UNEMPLOYMENT IN ECUADOR UNQUOTE. THE REPORT INCLUDED A LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIFIC, SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM, EMPLOYMENT-GENERATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PPOGRAMS.

3. AT A MEETING, CALLED BY THE OAS REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THAT THE REPORT WAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH
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THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES; AND THE USAID

DIRECTOR, THE IDB REPRESENTATIVE AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVE DETECTED SUBSTANTIAL OVERLAP WITH ACTIVITIES PRESENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES. THE REPORT ALSO UNILATERALLY SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENT OF DIFFERENT PROJECTS TO SPECIFIC AGENCIES. DURING THIS MEETING, THE OAS REP ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO THIS OAS REPORT WHICH WAS TO FORM THE KEYSTONE OF THE OAS PRESENTATION AT THE CEP-CIES MEETING.

4. WE BELIEVE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATION IS VITAL WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF DONOR NATIONS INVOLVED IN LATIN AMERICA. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE OAS TO BE ADEQUATE TO THE JOB OF COORDINATING COUNTRY REVIEWS.

5. "7\$, AS THE LARGEST DONOR IN THE HEMISPHERE, HAS MUCH MORE LEVERAGE WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND WE BELIEVE WOULD NOW BE A MORE EFFECTIVE COORDINATOR. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE NO. 2 PRESENTED IN REFTEL.

6. WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OAS AND GOE HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE AS A RESULT OF GALO PLAZA'S FORMER POSITION AS HEAD OF OAS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A STRONG REACTION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER TO ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE NO. 2 OR ALTERNATIVE NO. 3. HOWEVER, THE GOE MIGHT VIEW ALTERNATIVE NO. 1 AS A LESSENING OF INTEREST BY DONORS IN ECUADOR'S DEVELOPMENT.
BREWSTER

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